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*Intellectual Property Law*

LUKE A. KILYK\* (PA, DC)  
LEONARD D. BOWERSOX  
JASBIR SINGH  
MATTHEW T. GILL  
RALPH T. WEBB\* (DC, TX, LA)  
SUSANNE M. HOPKINS  
J. MARK KONIECZNY\* (MA)

53 A East Lee Street  
WARRENTON, VA 20186

TEL.: (540) 428-1701  
FAC.: (540) 428-1720  
(540) 428-1721

FAIRFAX OFFICE  
3603-E Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Email: [kilkyk@kbpatentlaw.com](mailto:kilkyk@kbpatentlaw.com)  
Website: <http://www.kbpatentlaw.com>

Of Counsel:

WILLIAM CHARLES JAMISON

\*Admitted only in states indicated

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**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET**

**DATE:**

April 22, 2005

**TO:**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RE:**

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549  
For: TANTALUM AND NIOBium BILLETS  
AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME  
Our Ref.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)

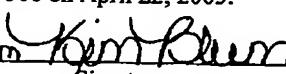
**FROM:** Luke A. Kilyk, Esq. 

**FAC. TEL. NO.:** 1-703-872-9306

**NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET):** 26

Items Attached: Amendment - 25 pages

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-703-872-9306 on April 22, 2005.

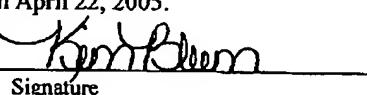
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Name (Print)

  
Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Michaluk ) Examiner: Lois L. Zheng  
 )  
Application Number: 10/042,549 ) Group Art Unit: 1742  
 )  
Filed: January 9, 2002 ) Confirmation No.: 5470  
 )  
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01) )

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 22, 2005

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2005 in the above-identified application, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response, thus making the response due on or before April 25, 2005.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin at page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin at page 12 of this paper.